

MEDIA RELEASE

**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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**LOUISVILLE MAN ARRESTED FOR RECEIVING AND POSSESSING CHILD
PORNOGRAPHY WHILE ON STATE BOND**

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today the arrest of and the filing of a complaint against **SHAWN CHRISTOPHER COWLEY**, age 32, of 3106 Montana Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky, on charges of receiving and possessing child pornography.

According to the affidavit of a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a Jefferson County Grand Jury returned a 30-count Indictment against **Cowley** on May 19, 2005. The Indictment charged **Cowley** with multiple instances of sodomy (including first, second, and third degree), six counts of third degree unlawful transaction with a minor, and two counts of intimidating a witness. According to court records, **Cowley** remained in state custody from May 23, 2005, until approximately August 25, 2005, at which point he was released on a cash and property bond.

On December 6, 2005, a Jeffersontown ("J-town") Police Department Detective presented an Affidavit for Search Warrant to a Jefferson County District Judge. The detective's affidavit advised that prior to the May 19, 2005, date, law enforcement officials had executed a state Search Warrant on **Cowley's** residence, with the intent of seizing **Cowley's** computer and related materials. The computer system, however, could not be located in the home. The Jeffersontown detective

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received information that **Cowley** was still in possession of the aforementioned computer system and that it was located at **Cowley's** mother's home at 3106 Montana Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky, and that **Cowley** was currently residing there.

On December 6, 2005, a Jefferson District Court Judge issued another Search Warrant for 3106 Montana Avenue. Among other things, the warrant authorized the seizure of computers and computer systems to be searched for evidence relating to the original sodomy, unlawful transaction with a minor, and intimidating a witness charges. Law enforcement officials seized two HP Pavilion computers from the Montana Avenue residence.

The J-town Detective submitted the seized computers to the Lexington Police Department ("LPD"), computer forensic services unit for forensic examination. An LPD Detective conducted a preliminary examination of both computers on December 14, 2005. During the course of the preliminary examination, the detective found several files containing suspected child pornography. Further examination of one computer revealed information indicating Internet searches for "preteen," "pre teen nude," "incest," and "family." The computer records revealed numerous visits to web sites with titles suggesting the presentation of child pornography. Additionally, the LPD Detective recovered several images of suspected child pornography.

Cowley appeared for an initial appearance before United States Magistrate James D. Moyer, on October 30, 2006. Judge Moyer scheduled a combination preliminary hearing / detention hearing for October 31, 2006, at 2:30 p.m. **Cowley** waived the preliminary hearing and stipulated that there was probable cause for his arrest. At the conclusion of the detention hearing, Magistrate Judge Moyer determined that **Cowley** had not overcome the statutory presumption in favor of detention, that he posed a threat of dangerousness to the community, and ordered him detained pending

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disposition of the charges. **Cowley** is tentatively scheduled for arraignment on November 21, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. in Louisville, Kentucky, pending further action by the Grand Jury.

If convicted, **Cowley** faces a mandatory minimum sentence of five years' imprisonment and a potential penalty of 30 years' imprisonment, a \$500,000.00 fine, and supervised release for a period of any term of years up to and including life. **There is no parole in the federal judicial system.**

Assistant United States Attorney Jo E. Lawless is prosecuting the case. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Jeffersontown Police Department, and Lexington Police Department conducted the investigation.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

A criminal Complaint is an accusation only and that person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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